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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

#For the Pro-Poor
Agenda to
succeed undo
the errors by your
predecessors. #

VOL. 9 NO. 030

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2019

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More officials jailed



Deputy Governor Charles Sirleaf



CBL explains US\$25 Million



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Continental News

With cash, crime and drama, Nigeria politics inspire movie makers

Editor's note: The opinions in this article are the author's, as published by our content partner, and do not necessarily represent the views of MSN or Microsoft. With its alliances and betrayals, crimes and cash, and even a dash of witchcraft, the theatrical twists of Nigeria's politics are inspiring directors from the country's Nollywood movie industry. The saga surrounding Nigeria's recent election, delayed for a week just hours before voting started, has film-makers convinced they may have hit movie gold. Nigerians watched as their election delivered all the ingredients of a thriller, including charges of vote card fiddling, armoured cars filled with cash delivered to politicians' homes, and even arrests of opponents by the secret police -- all in the space of one week.

"I can do 100 movies based on Nigerian politics," said local director Ike Nnaebue. "There is

too much drama going on (...) and I believe that, as story tellers, it's our responsibility to start the conversation and begin to start changes."

With 190 million people in Nigeria and a growing wider audience on the African continent and among Nigeria's diaspora, Nollywood has

become the world's second-largest cinema business after India's Bollywood in terms of the number of films the industry pumps out.

And juicy local politics is increasingly a theme.

In "Dr. Mekan", a satire released in 2018, Nnaebue tells the tale of the rise of a

"repat", a Nigerian who grew up or lived abroad for a long time and who returned to live in Nigeria, often disconnected from reality. "As soon as he comes back from the States, he has fantastic ideas of how to run his state, and wants to become governor of Anambra. He has good intentions, but he doesn't understand how things are being done in Nigeria," the director said.

In one key scene the candidate makes an ambitious election promise to improve agriculture and develop local rice cultivation. The crowd applaud but a rumour runs through the crowd that his rival is offering food handouts at his rally and the spectators run off to get their free bags of rice -- imported from China.

In another scene, the candidate's campaign team is busy handing out cash to the crowd, while Mekan himself shouts at young people "Money will destroy you!"

"In this movie, we laugh at us. It's a critic of the foolishness of the politicians and of the people," the director said. "We need to start asking ourselves what is wrong in our country and change it. Cinema is a tool for it." President Muhammadu Buhari was re-elected last month after the delayed poll that angered voters. It was the second ballot box victory for Buhari, a one-time military ruler who was first elected in 2015 to lead Africa's top oil producer. "Citizens are spectators. AFP



With 190 million people in Nigeria and a growing audience outside on the African continent and among Nigeria's diaspora

Liberia's 'missing millions': Charles Sirleaf charged

The son of Liberia's ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been charged with economic sabotage in connection with the unlawful printing of local currency worth millions of dollars.

Charles Sirleaf is suspected of pocketing some of the

proceeds in 2016-18. He was a deputy governor of Liberia's Central Bank at the time.

Four other ex-bank officials were also charged. Two of them are on the run. The accused have so far made no comments on the allegations.

An independent report into the missing millions was

released last week. One of the world's poorest nations, Liberia has been struggling with rampant corruption.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of the West African country from 2006 to 2018, was credited with bringing economic stability after years of conflict. What about the charges?

On Monday, Mr Sirleaf, former bank chief Milton Weeks and bank official Dorbor Hagba were charged with economic sabotage, misuse of public money and criminal conspiracy. A judge in the capital Monrovia ordered them to be held in prison pending their trial.

Lawyers for the accused have not responded to the allegations.

The other two defendants still at large were named as Richard Walker and Joseph Dennis.

What did the report find? The much-anticipated report was carried out by investigative auditing firm Kroll. It was looking into the alleged disappearance of more

Zimbabwe: Trump Renews US Sanctions Against Zimbabwean Authorities

This is contained in an executive order signed by Trump and posted on the White House website on Monday.

"The actions and policies of these persons continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States.

"For this reason, the national emergency declared on March 6, 2003, and the measures adopted on that date, on November 22, 2005, and on July 25, 2008, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond March 6, 2019." Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288. "The sanctions were imposed 2003 "to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions." According to the White House, "These actions

and policies had contributed to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Zimbabwe, to politically motivated violence and intimidation in that country, and to political and economic instability in the southern African region."

The renewal of sanctions against the Zimbabwean government now led by President Emmerson Mnangagwa is a slap in the face for SADC whose leaders have intensified their demands for the scrapping of the measures by the superpower. The Zimbabwean government continues to single out sanctions as the main barrier to its bid to turn around the fortunes of the national economy. Zimbabwe's opposition and civil society organisations insist that the current Mnangagwa led government has not done anything to see the country break from its bitter past under his predecessor.

A recent crackdown on anti-government protesters has seen 17 civilian deaths through gunshot wounds by security forces while the state has renewed its persecution on government critics.



Charles Sirleaf (centre) will be held in prison pending his trial

than \$100m (£75m) worth of newly printed Liberian banknotes last year.

It had been widely reported that shipping containers full of banknotes had vanished from Monrovia's port and airport.

However, the report did not find any proof that this

happened. Instead, it found that Liberia's Central Bank had acted unilaterally and unlawfully by printing and importing into the country three times the amount of banknotes it had been authorised to do. BBC

EDITORIAL

Mathew J. Innis' death raises too many questions

CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED to the death of the Central Bank of Liberia Deputy Director for Micro-finance, Matthew J. Innis, on Saturday, 2 March in an alleged hit and run accident along the Samuel Kanyon Doe Boulevard near his residence in 72nd community, barely three days after the release of findings into investigations of the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes and the US\$25 million infused in the economy to mop up excess liquidity raise more questions than answers.

THE LATE INNIS, who directly served in the Regulation and Supervision Department of the CBL, was poised to testify as a witness in ongoing investigation of several staff of the Central Bank, including former Executive Governor Milton Weeks, Deputy Governor for Operations, Charles Sirleaf, who is son of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Director of Banking, Dorbor Hagba, among others in perhaps the biggest scandal ever in Liberia.

ACCORDING TO INITIAL reports from family sources, he left home on Saturday, strangely for work, something that was viewed as uncommon and did not respond to calls from his family at home the entire day. Suddenly at about 2:00 early Sunday morning, the family was hit with news of his death in a hit and run car accident not too far from his residence.

THE BODY OF the late Innis was reportedly discovered near his car with bruises on his face and arm, dressed in a pair of shorts and a muscle t-shirt, without any damage to his vehicle. Police then turned over his personal effects such as a laptop, mobile phone and others to the family, reports detailed.

ACCORDING TO REPORT, the police had immediately taken the body to ELWA Hospital along the Robertsfield highway before the family was contacted by unidentified group of men believed to be community residents.

SUSPICIONS AROUND PARTICULARLY among members of the family how Matthew Innis died, with some suspecting he may have been murdered elsewhere and his body dumped by his car near his residence, indicating he was involved in an accident, purportedly a hit and run, as the alleged vehicle involved is reportedly on the run.

SOME QUESTIONS BEING raised in the public are: Why would Matthew, poised to testify in a major financial scandal involving his past and current senior bosses from his place of work, be reported killed in a hit and run accident, especially at an odd hour (2:00 A.M.) Sunday, having left for work a day earlier? Why he did not respond to phone calls the entire day before, even up to news of his death the next day? Why is own car not damaged or why would he had disembarked from his car at such hour, being alone to become victim of a hit and run accident? Is it that he knew more about the LRD16 billion and the US\$25 million saga and suspected culprits wanted him silenced before the actual trial starts? Did he in fact, report for work on Saturday, 2 March at the CBL, and when did he leave for home? Are files in his office at the CBL still intact? What was the last call he made or received, and who was involved? These are just but few of the questions in the public regarding Matthew Innis' death amid a major criminal investigation.

REPORTS SAY POLICE are reluctant to speak on the situation since the alleged 'hit and run' accident occurred on the SKD Boulevard early Sunday. Family members are being prevented from taking possession of the body, pending an autopsy.

MATTHEW INNIS' DEATH reminds us of two suspicious deaths of high profile individuals during the administration of Ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - the late Harry A. Greaves, Jr. and the late Cllr. Michael Allison. Greaves, who suddenly became a bitter critic of Madam Sirleaf after having served in her administration as Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company, was found dead off the shores of Monrovia early Sunday, 31 January 2016 behind the former Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, while Cllr. Allison's body was "discovered on the beach on 4th Street on Thursday February 12, 2015", according to the Liberia National Police.

THE LATE CLLR. ALLISON reportedly blew the whistle that led to a corruption investigation by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC, involving former Speaker J. Alex Tyler and Montserrado County Representative Adolph Lawrence, among others about funds from the National Oil Company of Liberia or NOCAL.

AS INVESTIGATIONS ON the newly printed 16 billion Liberian Dollars and the US\$25 million kick off in Monrovia, we can but only hope the suspicious death of Matthew J. Innis, a staff of the Central Bank of Liberia, who was reportedly set to testify in court, has no connection whatsoever with the financial trial, as this could open a fresh can of worms.

COMMENTARY

By Emmanuel Macron

Renewing Europe

European citizens need to learn from the Brexit impasse and apply those lessons ahead of and after the European Parliament election in May. That means embracing reforms that advance the three goals that lie at the heart of the European project.

PARIS - Never, since World War II, has Europe been as essential. Yet never has Europe been in so much danger. Brexit stands as the symbol of that. It symbolises the crisis of Europe, which has failed to respond to its peoples' needs for protection from the major shocks of the modern world. It also symbolises the European trap. That trap is not one of being part of the European Union. The trap is in the lie and the irresponsibility that can destroy it.

Who told the British people the truth about their post-Brexit future? Who spoke to them about losing access to the European market? Who mentioned the risks to peace in Ireland of restoring the former border? Nationalist retrenchment offers nothing; it is rejection without an alternative. And this trap threatens the whole of Europe: the anger mongers, backed by fake news, promise anything and everything.1

We have to stand firm, proud and lucid, in the face of this manipulation and say first of all what today's united Europe is. It is a historic success: the reconciliation of a devastated continent in an unprecedented project of peace, prosperity and freedom. We should never forget that. And this project continues to protect us today. What country can act on its own in the face of aggressive strategies by the major powers? Who can claim to be sovereign, on their own, in the face of the digital giants?

How would we resist the crises of financial capitalism without the euro, which is a force for the entire European Union? Europe is also those thousands of projects daily that have changed the face of our regions: the school refurbished, the road built, and the long-awaited arrival of high-speed Internet access. This struggle is a daily commitment, because Europe, like peace, can never be taken for granted. I tirelessly pursue it in the name of France to take Europe forward and defend its model. We have shown that what we were told was unattainable, the creation of a European defence capability and the protection of social rights, was in fact possible.

Yet we need to do more and sooner, because there is the other trap: the trap of the status quo and resignation. Faced with the major crises in the world, citizens so often ask us, "Where is Europe? What is Europe doing?" It has become a soulless market in their eyes.

Yet Europe is not just a market. It is a project. A market is useful, but it should not detract from the need for borders that protect and values that unite. The nationalists are misguided when they claim to defend our identity by withdrawing from Europe, because it is the European civilisation that unites, frees and protects us. But those who would change nothing are also misguided, because they deny the fears felt by our peoples, the doubts that undermine our democracies. We are at a pivotal moment for our continent, a moment when together we need to politically and culturally reinvent the shape of our civilisation in a changing world. It is the moment for European renewal. Hence, resisting the temptation of isolation and divisions, I propose we build this renewal together around three ambitions: freedom, protection and progress.

The European model is based on the freedom of man and the diversity of opinions and creation. Our first freedom is democratic freedom: the freedom to choose our leaders as foreign powers seek to influence our vote at each election. I propose creating a European Agency for the Protection of Democracies, which will provide each member state with European experts to protect their election processes against cyber-attacks and manipulation. In this same spirit of independence, we should also ban the funding of European political parties by foreign powers. We should have European rules banish all incitements to hate and violence from the Internet, since respect for the individual is the bedrock of our civilisation of dignity.

Protect Our Continent

Founded on internal reconciliation, the EU has forgotten to look at the realities of the world. Yet no community can create a sense of belonging if it does not have bounds that it protects. The boundary is freedom in security. We therefore need to rethink the Schengen area: all those who want to be part of it should comply with obligations of responsibility (stringent border controls) and solidarity (one asylum policy with the same acceptance and refusal rules). We will need a common border force and a European asylum office, strict control obligations and European solidarity to which each country will contribute under the authority of a European Council for Internal Security. On the issue of migration, I believe in a Europe that protects both its values and its borders.

The same standards should apply to defence. Substantial progress has been made in the last two years, but we need to set a clear course: a treaty on defence and security should define our fundamental obligations in association with NATO and our European allies: increased defence spending, a truly operational mutual defence clause, and the European Security Council with the United Kingdom on board to prepare our collective decisions.

Our borders also need to guarantee fair competition. What power in the world would accept continued trade with those who respect none of their rules? We cannot suffer in silence. We need to reform our competition policy and reshape our trade policy with penalties or a ban in Europe on businesses that compromise our strategic interests and fundamental values such as environmental standards, data protection and fair payment of taxes; and the adoption of European preference in strategic industries and our public procurement, as our American and Chinese competitors do.

Recover the Spirit of Progress

Europe is not a second-rank power. Europe in its entirety is a vanguard: it has always defined the standards of progress. In this, it needs to drive forward a project of convergence rather than competition: Europe, where social security was created, needs to introduce a social shield for all workers, east to west and north to south, guaranteeing the same pay in the same workplace, and a minimum European wage appropriate to each country and discussed collectively every year.

A world-oriented Europe needs to look towards Africa, with which we should enter into a covenant for the future, taking the same road and ambitiously and non-defensively supporting African development with such measures as investment, academic partnerships and education for girls.

Freedom, protection and progress. We need to build European renewal on these pillars. We cannot let nationalists without solutions exploit the people's anger. We cannot sleepwalk through a diminished Europe. We cannot become ensconced in business as usual and wishful thinking. European humanism demands action. And everywhere, the people are standing up to be part of that change.

So, by the end of the year, let's set up, with the representatives of the European institutions and the member states, a Conference for Europe in order to propose all the changes our political project needs, with an open mind, even to amending the treaties. This conference will need to engage with citizens' panels and hear academics, business and labour representatives, and religious and spiritual leaders. It will define a roadmap for the EU that translates these key priorities into concrete actions. There will be disagreement, but it is better to have a static Europe or a Europe that advances, sometimes at different paces, and that is open to all?

In this Europe, the peoples will really take back control of their future. In this Europe, the United Kingdom, I am sure, will find its true place.

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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OPINION

By Anastasia Edel

Walls of Futility

MOSCOW - My Soviet school built a mesh fence around its yard. Every week, tardy kids who wanted to cut through the yard tore a hole in the fence. Every weekend, the administration fixed it. But the hole would reappear the morning after. This went on forever. I wish US President Donald Trump, the fence builder of the West, had gone to my school.

The Soviet Union was a country of fences, barriers, and walls. Everything was prohibited, locked, and guarded. Warning signs were phrased in no uncertain terms: "Do Not Enter: Death!" "Strangers Are Forbidden." "The Border Is Closed."

Barriers didn't stop people from ignoring the warnings. But they complicated things. To steal bricks and cable from construction sites, citizens removed planks from wooden fences, or climbed over concrete ones, at the risk of being scratched by rusty nails or barbed wire, bitten by guard dogs, or even shot at with rock salt. Construction materials were in short supply, but people needed them, and not everyone could pay black-market prices. For intruders, fences were not such a big deal.

Collective farms were also fenced off, to prevent perpetually hungry citizens from stealing fruit, vegetables, and grains. In 1932, during the Ukrainian famine, Joseph Stalin, a fence builder par excellence, introduced the "Law of Three Spikelets," which made taking a handful of grain from a kolkhoz a crime punishable by firing squad. He was not bothered that people were stealing because they had nothing to eat. Getting rid of the hungry was easier than getting rid of hunger.

Soviet hospitals were similarly walled off. Visiting a patient was a nightmare: doorkeepers were many, visiting hours were few, and entering intensive-care units or delivery rooms was simply prohibited because hospital staff believed all outsiders were walking swarms of bacteria. In the West, husbands hold their wives' hands during delivery, seemingly unconcerned about bacteria, and, despite all the precautions, infection and mortality rates in the Soviet Union were strikingly higher.

Citizens themselves often built barriers, despite the futility of the effort. In the 1990s, Russians started installing metal doors in their apartments to protect themselves from break-ins, which, in the economic chaos of those years, became bolder and more frequent. The effect was marginal, because thieves began showing up with metal cutters.

Summer camps for children were always fenced, featuring checkpoints, barred gates, and guards, and lookouts were posted at entrances to beaches and other areas prone to unauthorized access. Leaving a camp was strictly forbidden, and breaking out was even harder than breaking in. Kids still did it - some on a dare, some out of spite, and some simply because they wanted to bathe without holding hands, a regular safety practice. Every year, at least one escapee would drown, and another would get lost in surrounding woods or be apprehended going home on a train without a ticket. Personally, I liked the camp, despite the endless marching and shouting "Always ready!" But, like most of my fellow campers, I knew how to get out if I wanted.

The paragon of Soviet impregnability outside of the gulag was a meat-processing plant. Such places had it all: the fence, the sniffing dogs, the barbed wire, checkpoints, vigilantes, and sometimes militiamen. Still, people could not help wanting to eat meat, a rare commodity in the era of "advanced socialism." Here, the trick was getting through the obstacle course with the meat concealed under your clothes: a challenging task, given raw meat's tendency to drip.

Breaking out of the Soviet Union was, of course, the hardest task of all. Most people didn't even try, the risks being what they were. But those who did went all out. They swam across frigid seas, hid themselves in car trunks, and even hijacked planes. In 1961, the Kirov Ballet star Rudolf Nureyev escaped his KGB bodyguards and simply soared over the border at Le Bourget airport in Paris, securing the most dangerous ovation of his life - and the chance to be what he wanted to be.

Others, not so successful, ended up shot, electrocuted, or imprisoned. And even those who didn't break the law suffered all the same. In the Soviet dissident purgatory, a special place was reserved for refuseniks, people of Jewish descent whose petitions to emigrate had been refused. With a "refused" stamp in their passport, which was already burdened by the designation "Jew" in the mandatory "Nationality" field, they were social pariahs. Refuseniks were shunned by neighbors and friends. They were subject to KGB surveillance. And some were unable to get even menial jobs. Yet they couldn't leave, because people who build walls and hang Iron Curtains, even when they package it all in talk of safety and protection, really just want to show you who's boss.

In the end, no wall, fence, or curtain - iron or steel - can stop people from fighting for survival. But these barriers can turn a once-open country into a land of prisoners and guards, a giant fenced zone where everything is poisoned and slowly collapses on itself. That was the Soviet Union's fate. If Trump gets his way, it could be America's as well.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MONTERRADO COUNTY
IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO
COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER
TERM OF COURT A.D. 2018

BEFORE HIS HONOR YUSSIF D. KABA.....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

Morris Sekou McGee of Monrovia, Liberia
.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS
Randa Bennah Mcgee of Dulluth GA. USA
.....DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DIVORCE
FOR INCOMPATIBILITY OF
TEMPER

WRIT OF SUMMONS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L. OR ITS DEPUTY;
GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS MARCH, A.D. 2019 TERM OF COURT AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 IN THE MORNING, SAME BEING THE THIRD MONDAY IN MARCH, A.D. 2019, TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT OF THE ABOVE NAME PLAINTIFF. THAT UPON HER FAILURE, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST HIM

YOU ARE FUTHER COMANDED TO NOTIFY THE SAID DEFENDANT TO FILE HER FORMAL APPEARANCE AND OR ANSWER IN MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 15 DAY OF Jan A.D. 2019 MEANWHILE YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS TO MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 25th DAY OF Jan A.D., 2019 WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

AND HAVE THERE TIS WRIT OF SUMMONS

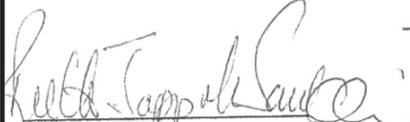
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 15 DAY OF Jan, A.D. 2019

COURT SEAL


AFFIDAVIT

Personally appearance before me a duly qualified Justice of the Peace, for and in Monterrado County, at my office in the City of Monrovia, Ruth Jappah, Counsellor-at-Law, and one of counsels for Plaintiff in the above entitled cause of action and made oath according to law that all and singular the allegations of both law and facts as set forth and contained in the annexed plaintiff's complaint are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief, and as to those matters of information, she verily believes them to be true and correct.

Sworn and Subscribed to before
Me in my office in the city of
Monrovia, Liberia this 15 day of
Jan A.D. 2019


Ruth Jappah
Deponent/Counsellor-at-Law



SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Plaintiff in the above-entitled cause of action most respectfully prays this court and your Honor for a decree, granting divorce from his wife, for cause shows reasons as follows:

1. That after six (6) months of marriage and living in peace and harmony, their marriage deteriorated to the extent that living with the Defendant became so strained and dangerous due to abusive and violent behavior by the Defendant against the Plaintiff when she on several occasions attacked him with knife thereby threatening the Plaintiff life that he was left with no choice but to separate.
2. That the differences between Plaintiff and the Defendant have become irreconcilable up to filing of this action, which makes it impossible for them remain married.
3. WHEREFORE, AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court for a Decree, dissolving their marriage and declaring them two separate and distinct persons, both in law and equity, as if they were never married, and grant unto Plaintiff such other and further relief as the law directs.



STATEMENT ON THE CBL DIRECT MOPPING EXERCISE

March 5, 2019

On July 16, 2018, the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, in his address to the Nation on the State of the Economy instructed the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to infuse US\$25 million (Twenty-Five Million United States Dollars) into the economy to mop-up excess Liberian Dollar liquidity to stabilize the exchange rate between the Liberian and United States Dollars. Said measure was implemented by the CBL in close collaboration with the Technical Economic Management (TEMT) to whom it submitted regular progress reports.

The TEMT is an economic policy-making body chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. and co-chaired by the Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Hon. Nathaniel R. Patray, III. Other members include: Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Minister of State Without Portfolio, Chairman of the National Investment Commission, Commissioner General of the Liberian Revenue Authority and the Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Liberia. It is important to note that neither the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, as Chairman of the TEMT, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. nor any member of the TEMT was ever involved with the direct mopping operations.

The TEMT mandated the CBL to use the direct mopping strategy based on the following reasons:

1. That over ninety percent of currency in the economy is outside the banking system. Therefore, using the banking system would not yield the desired result;
2. CBL's experience shows that using conventional foreign exchange auction by itself, through the commercial banks, has had limited impact on the exchange rate; and
3. Economic research and empirical evidence show that foreign exchange auctions and market interventions (using commercial banks) by central banks have limited impact on exchange rate stability.

Based on the approval of the TEMT, the CBL commenced the mopping exercise with the following objectives: to halt the rapid depreciation of the Liberian dollar, reverse the depreciation, and stabilize the exchange rate. These objectives were achieved.

To do this, the mopping up exercise targeted three groups: major importers, small businesses and licensed foreign exchange bureaus. All information on the operations—including detailed information regarding the names of the buyers, the types of businesses, their addresses, the transaction volumes and transaction rates were meticulously recorded, and the information was provided in full to the TEMT. Also, a detailed report was submitted to the Leadership of the National Legislature.

The intervention began on July 17, 2018 and ended October 30, 2018. A total of US\$17 million was used for the intervention, broken down as follows:

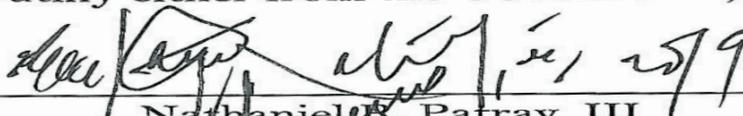
1. US\$15 million was mopped up from outside the banking system in exchange for L\$2,303,363,898; and
2. US\$2 million was sold to a major petroleum importer in exchange for L\$313,141,800.00 million through regular banking transaction to facilitate imports—this ensured a steady supply of fuel to the Liberian market and prevented economic disruption that a fuel shortage would have caused.

Therefore, the CBL notes that the US\$17.0 million used is fully accounted for, and the remaining US\$8.0 million is with the CBL.

The TEMT mandated that the mopped-up money be sterilized for a period of one year. However, due to complaints from commercial banks and customers during the Christmas seasons that they could not withdraw Liberian dollar from the banks, the TEMT authorized the CBL to give L\$1.3 billion of the sterilized L\$2,303,363,898 billion to the commercial banks to meet the Liberian dollar demand for the Christmas season. The CBL gave this money to the commercial banks, and records of these transactions are available.

In conclusion, all monies herein mentioned are fully accounted for. The CBL avails itself of any further scrutiny either from the Government, external actors, or both.

Signed: _____


 Nathaniel R. Patray, III
 Executive Governor

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House concurs with Senate on Hummingbird agreement

The House of Representatives has concurred with the Liberian Senate on the ratification of a mineral development agreement between Hummingbird Resource and the Government of Liberia, estimated at US\$250 million.

The House took the decision Tuesday, 5 March, nearly a week after the Senate passed the controversial agreement on Thursday, 28 February amid

Liberian Constitution, he was returning the Act to the lawmakers.

He informed them that the Act sent to his office was reviewed by the Special Presidential Concessions Review Committee and that it was derived at the overall conclusion that while the agreement is appreciably conscious of the need for a fair business arrangement, few critical aspects needed

But four senators walked out of session during passage of the controversial agreement Thursday, 28 February, saying the report should have been brought on the floor of the Senate for debate before its passage.

The agreement is intended to develop gold in Sinoe County and other parts of the Southeast.

But during the passage of the agreement Thursday, Senators Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland County, Prince Johnson of Nimba County, Sando Johnson of Bomi County and Oscar Cooper of Margibi County walked out of session in protest.

They expressed their opposition to the passage of the bill on grounds that a debate was not heard on the Senate floor before passage of the agreement.

The key benefits in the Hummingbird Agreement include jobs which comprise over 1,000 direct jobs and around 2,500 indirect jobs that are to be provided.

Under the agreement, three percent is given to the government of Liberia which is estimated to bring in millions of dollars in revenue from gold. The agreement further allows 10 percent shares for Liberians.

Hummingbird is expected to pay all other taxes and duties as set out in a fiscal agreement.

Meanwhile, Hummingbird will pay a signature fee of US\$3 million to the Government of Liberia, with US\$1.5 million to be paid within 15 days of the effective date. US\$1.5 million will be paid to obtain the license.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



protests from other lawmakers.

The bill has been in committee room after President George Manneh Weah vetoed it on 3 July 2018 by virtue of the authority vested in him under Article 35 of the Liberian Constitution.

In his communication to the lawmakers, President Weah had said in view of his disapproval of the Act as provided for in Article 35 of the

reconsideration in order to bring a protracted benefit with mutual balance for each of the comparing parties.

In its form at the time, President Weah said the agreement needed modification to include the authentication of the document.

Last week the Liberian Senate ratified the mineral development agreement estimated at US\$250 million.

Weah hails Ghana on its 62nd Independence

President George Manneh Weah has sent a congratulatory message to the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana on the auspicious occasion commemorating the 62nd Independence Anniversary of that country.

According to a Foreign Ministry press release, in his message to his Ghanaian counterpart Nana Akufo-Addo, President Weah conveyed warmest felicitations and sincere best wishes to the Government and People of Ghana, as they celebrate this historic event.

"I reflect on the long, but determined journey of your country towards a speedy and



sustainable development. Today, we all take pride in the development and democratic gains Ghana has achieved,"

President Weah says. President Weah further hopes that the cordial ties of friendship and cooperation

Lofa women vow to restore 'breadbasket'

A group under the banner Lofa Women for Progress (LWP) has launched an ambitious project aimed at restoring Liberia's 'breadbasket' status in food and non-food crops productions through sustained agricultural activities.

According to the women group, their aim is to support economic growth and the reduction of poverty through agriculture.

Speaking at the launch of the project in Voinjama City, Lofa County, LWP Director Youngor Sherman says the organization's aim is not to only make Lofa food sufficient

The group will begin the production of palm, plantain and rice.

"We want to put Lofa back in its rightful place when it comes to productivity. We want to make farm to earn our own money," she says.

It is anticipated that the launching of such auspicious initiative will enhance the capabilities of the women to grow more crops in regards to rice, plantain, banana, and pepper.

Lofa, and Liberia as a whole, have a climate favorable to farming, vast forests, and an abundance of water, yet low yields mean



but the entire country.

Director Sherman boasts of progress made thus far in reclaiming Lofa County's lost glory. She says LWP will ensure that jobs are created for women of the county through their agricultural ventures.

She stresses that they are ready to work, extending a call to all residents of Lofa County for their support in awakening the spirit of the county.

She discloses that with the help of another agriculture guru, John Selma, and a prominent son of the county Momo Cyrus and others, LWP has acquired 50 acres of land to begin the initiative.

that over half of foodstuffs are imported, with net agricultural trade at -\$73.12 million.

Headed by former City Mayor of Voinjama Youngor Sherman, LWP was established in August 2010 with an initial membership of 100 persons, then 500 persons and now has exceeded 1000.

Agriculture is a major sector of the Liberian economy worth 38.8% of Gross Domestic Product, employing more than 70% of the population and providing a valuable export.--*Press release*

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subsisting between Liberia and Ghana will be further strengthened, both bilaterally and within the context of regional cooperation, as the two leaders work together for the promotion of regional and international peace and security.

President George Manneh

Weah then prays that, as Ghana celebrates this joyous occasion, the Almighty God will continue to endow President Akufo-Addo with abundant wisdom and strength as he leads his compatriots to greater prosperity.--*Press release*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Council of Churches welcomes LRD16bn reports

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberia Council of Churches or LCC says it welcomes findings into investigations of the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian banknotes released by both the Government of Liberia and the United States Embassy here through USAID.

In a press release signed its President Dr. Kortu Brown Monday March 4, the LCC notes that the reports have been something the nation has anxiously anticipated to know the truth concerning the explosive media report of the alleged missing money and conduct of the US\$ 25 million mop-up exercise carried out by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Central Bank to buy excess legacy banknotes from the market.

“We commend the Presidential Investigative Team or PIT that was setup by President Weah, and the USAID sponsored Kroll international financial firm for their tireless efforts in compiling and releasing these investigative reports simultaneously on Thursday February 28, 2019 in Monrovia”, the LCC release reads.

The LCC says it acknowledges several outstanding issues presented

by the investigative reports, including whereabouts of the reported LD\$ 2.6 billion excess printed material, reflecting a strong difference between new banknotes reportedly received at the Central Bank to the tune of L\$15.506 billion and documented printed volumes of L\$ 18.1 billion.

The Council describes as extremely troubling, the US\$25 million mop-up transactions, poor documentation of financial transaction at the CBL,

including difference in three CBL operational vaults balances, amid lack of full legislative approval for printing the approximately LD18. 1 billion banknotes to replace the legacy banknotes from the market, among others.

Meanwhile, the LCC calls on the government to ensure the fight against impunity and sleaze is profound and comprehensive by ensuring that everything is done to bring to justice all those

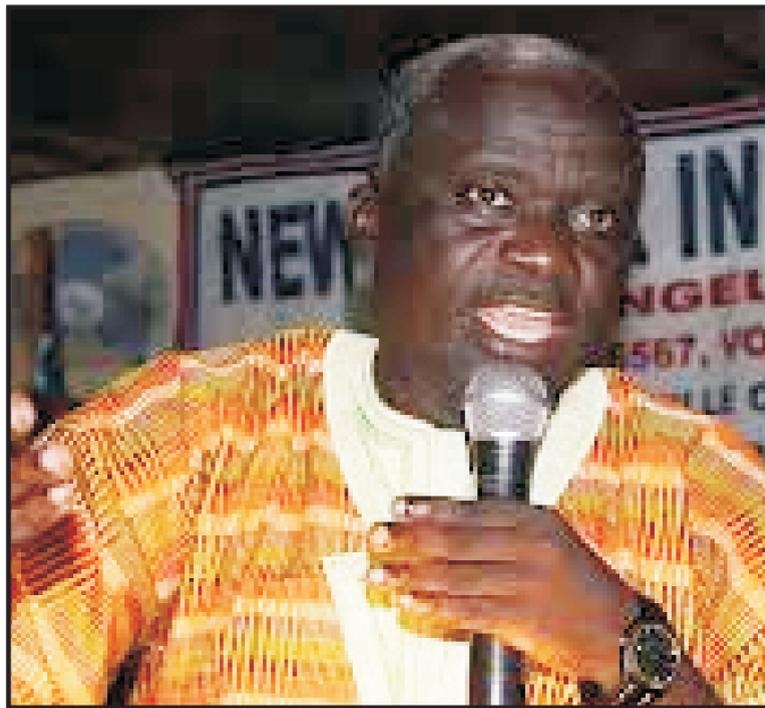
implicated in the two investigation reports.

It also calls on Liberians to remain calm and behave in an orderly manner as the financial drama of enormous consequences unfolds before their eyes.

The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Charles E. Sirleaf, former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, and CBL Director of Banking Dorbor Hagba were charged and put behind bars

late Monday evening. The trio has been locked up at the Monrovia Central Prison after they failed to file criminal appearance bonds.

The trio appeared in Court Monday March 4, following their arrests Thursday February 28 through Friday March 1, for their roles in the “missing 16 billion” Liberian banknotes which both local and international investigators now put at over LRD18 billion. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Weah declares March 8 “International Women’s Day”

President George Manneh Weah has issued a Proclamation, declaring March 8, 2019 as “International Women’s Day” to be celebrated throughout the Republic of Liberia as a Working Holiday.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this year’s “International Women’s Day” will be observed under the global theme: “Think Equal, Build Smart, and Innovate for Change: and the national theme: “Gender Equality for Innovative Change”.

The Proclamation further requests government ministries and agencies, particularly the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Civil Society Organizations and NGO’S concerned to organize and execute appropriate programs befitting the occasion.

According to a press release, the observance is in recognition of the struggle that women around the world have made to gain equality and equal rights as well as to reflect on changes and

progress that culminated in their international endeavor.

According to the Proclamation, the Government of Liberia, being cognizant of its obligation to ensure equal status for men and women in society without discrimination, has ratified the convention on “The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women”, reflecting its commitment to gender equality and equity through its Pro - Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

Furthermore, the Proclamation stated that the women of Liberia, will this year, join their counterparts around the world to celebrate the “International Women’s Day”.

The Proclamation is in consonance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/142 which was passed in 1977 declaring 8th March of each year as “International Women’s Day” to be observed by member states in accordance with their historical and national traditions. *--Press release*

Man stabs 98-year -old woman

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Police in Bong County have arrested a man believed to be in his early 20s for allegedly stabbing the two arms of a 98 - year - old woman Ma Esther Yarkpawolo with cutlass and allegedly plugging out the victim’s right eye.

Our correspondent says suspect Jonathan Dolo was arrested over the weekend in

the County following the incident in Kpaai District, Bong County.

After his arrest, suspect Dolo told our correspondent that he was provoked by his colleagues George Tokpa, Mitchel Kollie and Emmanuel Juah on Sunday, 3 March when they alleged that he was in a loving relationship with the 98 year - old victim Ma Yarkpawolo.

Following the alleged

provocation, suspect Dolo allegedly inflicted wounds on the old lady with cutlass while she was in bed, leading to serious bleeding from the victim’s eye.

Some of the eyewitnesses told our correspondent that the victim Ma Esther Yarkpawolo’s eye got completely damaged.

But doctors at the Phebe Hospital had not spoken to the press yet on the situation up to the time of this publication.

“They have always been telling me that I am loving to old-ma Esther and it makes me angry whenever they say such,” suspect Dolo explains.

He states that on Sunday, the guys were telling him the same thing and he got furious by their provocation.

“When I went to bed, it was like something entered in me so I immediately left my room and climbed in the ceiling and jumped into the room where old ma Esther was sleeping. When I knew that no one was around, I started to beat her with the front of the cutlass,” suspect Dolo narrates.

According to him, he wanted to kill victim Esther so his friends can stop provoking him of loving to her.



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

He accuses his three friends of conspiring with him to carry on the act.

Our Bong County correspondent says the police have arrested the three individuals who were accused by suspect Dolo.

The three suspects have

denied any wrongdoing, and promised to take the prime suspect to court if they are not guilty.

Meanwhile, the police are expected to charge and send the four individuals to court. *-- Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Des responsables de la Banque centrale du Libéria vont en prison

Charles E. Sirleaf, Milton A. Weeks et Dorbor Hagba ont été déferés à la prison centrale de Monrovia, après n'avoir pas pu payer des cautions pour leur libération sous caution lors de leur première comparution au tribunal.

Arrêtés la semaine dernière pour avoir joué un rôle dans l'affaire de l'impression des billets de banque, les responsables ont comparu devant le tribunal de la ville de Monrovia le lundi 4 mars, sous escorte policière.

Leur arrestation fait suite à la publication des rapports d'enquête de l'ambassade des États-Unis et de la commission présidentielle d'enquête.

Ils font face à plusieurs charges dont sabotage économique, utilisation abusive des fonds publics, versement illégal de fonds publics à une association de malfaiteurs et facilitation de la procédure pénale.

C'est dans un tribunal plein à claquer qu'ont comparus les responsables de la banque centrale pour la première fois dans le cadre de la disparition présumée des sacs d'argent.

Menottes à la main, ils ont été conduits à la prison

centrale de Monrovia, où ils resteront jusqu'à ce que leurs cautions pour leur libération sous caution aient été payées.

Sirleaf et Hagba ont été arrêtés le jeudi 28 février, quelques heures après que l'ambassade des États-Unis et l'équipe d'enquête présidentielle (PIT) ont publié leurs conclusions. Quant à M. Weeks, il a été arrêté le vendredi.

Le document de 68 pages contient une seule bonne

nouvelle pour les finances du pays : non, un conteneur rempli de 15 milliards de dollars libériens (102 millions de dollars américains, 89 millions d'euros) imprimés à l'étranger n'a pas disparu entre son arrivée sur le territoire et les coffres de la Banque centrale, contrairement à ce qu'affirmait une rumeur, à l'origine de l'enquête.

La polémique était née mi-2018 de déclarations du ministre de l'Information, Lenn

Eugene Nagbe, indiquant que la nouvelle administration n'avait pas été informée de l'arrivée de ces billets par l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf.

Alors que des manifestants scandaient "Rendez l'argent des conteneurs", George Weah, élu sur un programme de lutte contre la pauvreté et la corruption, avait promis de faire la clarté sur cette affaire, avec l'aide du gouvernement américain.

Le tableau dressé par Kroll est accablant pour les banquiers centraux de ce pays pauvre d'Afrique de l'Ouest, ravagé par une guerre civile (1989-2003) qui a fait quelque 250.000 morts.

L'audit souligne l'existence de problèmes "à tous les niveaux du processus de contrôle des billets entrants et sortants de la CBL" sur la période étudiée (janvier 2016 - décembre 2018), qui correspond aux deux dernières années de la présidence de Mme Sirleaf et au début du mandat de George Weah.

- 'Formulaires écrits à la main'

Dans le détail, il explique que la CBL a commandé en 2016 et 2017 - sans appel d'offres et sans l'aval préalable du Parlement - des nouveaux billets pour 15 milliards de dollars libériens (LRD) à la société américaine Crane Currency, qui les a imprimés en Suède.

Si 15 milliards de dollars libériens ont bien été commandés, ce sont finalement 15,506 milliards qui ont été imprimés, livrés et payés, poursuit l'audit. Certains documents évoquent même un montant de 17,450 milliards, mais cela pourrait relever d'erreurs, souligne Kroll, qui juge d'une manière générale "inadéquante" la comptabilité de la banque.

Une tranche de 10 milliards de dollars libériens a en outre été injectée dans l'économie sans que les anciennes coupures ne soient retirées de la circulation, alors qu'une augmentation de la masse monétaire entraîne inéluctablement une hausse de l'inflation et une dévaluation de la monnaie.

Pour enrayer ces phénomènes apparus depuis deux ans au Liberia, George Weah a ordonné en juillet à la CBL le rachat de billets libériens pour 25 millions de dollars américains. Mais cette opération a été mise en oeuvre "sans stratégie clairement définie" par la Banque centrale, selon Kroll.

Enfin, le rapport souligne que le relevé des entrées et sorties des coffres de la Banque centrale à Monrovia se fait "sur des formulaires écrits à la main" et que la comptabilité de la CBL ne reflète pas la réalité de ses réserves.



Le pouvoir dénonce un complot

Le président national de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), Mulbah Morlu, a dit disposer des informations crédibles selon lesquelles l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf aurait organisé une

réunion secrète contre le gouvernement actuel.

M. Morlu a tenu ses propos le lundi 4 mars après que le gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah a arrêté et placé en détention trois responsables de la Banque

centrale du Libéria (CBL) la semaine dernière, dont notamment le fils de Mme Sirleaf, Charles E. Sirleaf, pour leurs rôles présumés dans l'affaire « des 16 milliards de dollars libériens disparus ».

"Nous disposons des informations selon lesquelles le vendredi 1er mars 2019, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Sirleaf aurait eu une réunion nocturne à son domicile dans le but de saper l'enquête en cours", a déclaré Morlu.

"Nous confirmons à présent qu'elle rencontre aujourd'hui un groupe de journalistes minutieusement choisis afin de critiquer les efforts du gouvernement de poursuivre en justice des responsables prétendument corrompus de la CBL", a-t-il ajouté.

Le président de la CDC a déclaré que la lutte contre la corruption était une responsabilité morale nationale qui devrait mobiliser un soutien collectif.

Il a fait valoir que la



President George Manneh Weah

Articles traduits

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décision du président Weah de faire usage de la hache anti-corruption ne s'inscrit pas que dans le cadre de la réalisation d'une promesse de campagne électorale, mais repose sur le résultat des enquêtes crédibles et irréprochables.

«Le président George M. Weah a fait ce que d'autres n'avaient jamais fait par le passé. Il bénéficie d'un soutien sans précédent de la part du public, car il nettoie les dégâts et protège la confiance du public», a-t-il dit.

Le président du parti au pouvoir a en outre affirmé que les prétendus efforts de l'ancienne présidente pour influencer les reportages des médias contre ce gouvernement sont non seulement antipatriotiques, mais égoïstes et illégaux.

Il s'est dit déçu, d'autant plus que pour lui, l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf était censée soutenir le président Weah alors qu'il tente de contenir le «vampire» qu'elle a dit craindre tout au long de son règne.

Français

Des législateurs menacent de boycotter les prochaines sessions parlementaires

Les informations provenant des couloirs de la Chambre des représentants à Capitol Hill indiquent que des membres du «Caucus législatif indépendant» nouvellement formé menacent de boycotter les sessions parlementaires jusqu'à ce que leurs demandes soient satisfaites.

Le Caucus législatif indépendant, composé de 42 représentants de la Chambre basse, demande au Président Bhofal Chambers de verser plusieurs allocations, dont notamment l'allocation pour les bourses d'études qui s'élève à 4 000 USD, l'allocation d'essence de quatre mois, un mois d'arriérés de salaire et 10

discuter de la voie à suivre.

Toutes nos tentatives de contacter le président de la chambre des représentants ont été vaines, ses numéros privé et officiel ayant longuement sonné sans réponse.

Le groupe parlementaire désormais appelé Caucus législatif indépendant a été formé le 20 janvier dernier par des députés de la Chambre des représentants qui se disent lésés afin de se faire entendre.

Selon le député Larry Yonquoi, président du caucus, le groupe parlementaire a pour objectif de faire de la Chambre des représentants, « un organe indépendant et crédible ».

Depuis son arrivée au poste



mois d'allocation pour leurs circonscriptions.

Les membres du caucus législatif indépendant de la Chambre des représentants ont l'air déterminés à veiller à ce que la Chambre des représentants soit paralysée.

Le chef du Caucus trouve inadmissible que le gouvernement, par la voix de l'autorité des revenus du Libéria (LRA), se vante pour avoir généré des revenus, alors que les membres du pouvoir législatif n'ont pas encore reçu leurs avantages et leurs salaires, contrairement à leurs homologues du sénat à qui sont versés régulièrement les salaires, les bons d'essence, les bons des bourses d'études.

Les membres du Caucus législatif indépendant envisagent tenir une réunion stratégique pour

de président, Bhofal Chambers a toujours été sous le feu des critiques, soit pour la manière dont il procède en tant que président, soit pour son attitude à l'égard de ses collègues.

Il fait face à des critiques pour avoir prétendument usé de son pouvoir de président pour tenter de faire taire ses collègues à la Chambre, principalement ceux qu'il considère comme étant de l'opposition en raison de leur point de vue.

Le président Chambers était un virulent opposant au régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf. Il critiquait pêle-mêle et ne voyait rien de positif dans ce régime. Mais aujourd'hui au pouvoir, il a tendance à museler les voix discordantes. C'est bien ce que dénoncent ses détracteurs.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Emmanuel Macron

Pour une Renaissance européenne

PARIS - Citoyens d'Europe, Si je prends la liberté de m'adresser directement à vous, ce n'est pas seulement au nom de l'histoire et des valeurs qui nous rassemblent. C'est parce qu'il y a urgence. Dans quelques semaines, les élections européennes seront décisives pour l'avenir de notre continent.

Jamais depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'Europe n'a été aussi nécessaire. Et pourtant, jamais l'Europe n'a été autant en danger.

Le Brexit en est le symbole. Symbole de la crise de l'Europe, qui n'a pas su répondre aux besoins de protection des peuples face aux grands chocs du monde contemporain. Symbole, aussi, du piège européen. Le piège n'est pas l'appartenance à l'Union européenne ; ce sont le mensonge et l'irresponsabilité qui peuvent la détruire. Qui a dit aux Britanniques la vérité sur leur avenir après le Brexit ? Qui leur a parlé de perdre l'accès au marché européen ? Qui a évoqué les risques pour la paix en Irlande en revenant à la frontière du passé ? Le repli nationaliste ne propose rien ; c'est un rejet sans projet. Et ce piège menace toute l'Europe : les exploités de colère, soutenus par les fausses informations, promettent tout et son contraire.

Face à ces manipulations, nous devons tenir debout. Fiers et lucides. Dire d'abord ce qu'est l'Europe. C'est un succès historique : la réconciliation d'un continent dévasté, dans un projet inédit de paix, de prospérité et de liberté. Ne l'oublions jamais. Et ce projet continue à nous protéger aujourd'hui : quel pays peut agir seul face aux stratégies agressives de grandes puissances ? Qui peut prétendre être souverain, seul, face aux géants du numérique ? Comment résisterions-nous aux crises du capitalisme financier sans l'euro, qui est une force pour toute l'Union ? L'Europe, ce sont aussi ces milliers de projets du quotidien qui ont changé le visage de nos territoires, ce lycée rénové, cette route construite, l'accès rapide à Internet qui arrive, enfin. Ce combat est un engagement de chaque jour, car l'Europe comme la paix ne sont jamais acquises. Au nom de la France, je le mène sans relâche pour faire progresser l'Europe et défendre son modèle. Nous avons montré que ce qu'on nous disait inaccessible, la création d'une défense européenne ou la protection des droits sociaux, était possible.

Mais il faut faire plus, plus vite. Car il y a l'autre piège, celui du statu quo et de la résignation. Face aux grands chocs du monde, les citoyens nous disent bien souvent : « Où est l'Europe ? Que fait l'Europe ? ». Elle est devenue à leurs yeux un marché sans âme. Or l'Europe n'est pas qu'un marché, elle est un projet. Un marché est utile, mais il ne doit pas faire oublier la nécessité de frontières qui protègent et de valeurs qui unissent. Les nationalistes se trompent quand ils prétendent défendre notre identité dans le retrait de l'Europe ; car c'est la civilisation européenne qui nous réunit, nous libère et nous protège. Mais ceux qui ne voudraient rien changer se trompent aussi, car ils nient les peurs qui traversent nos peuples, les doutes qui minent nos démocraties. Nous sommes à un moment décisif pour notre continent ; un moment où, collectivement, nous devons réinventer politiquement, culturellement, les formes de notre civilisation

dans un monde qui se transforme. C'est le moment de la Renaissance européenne. Aussi, résistant aux tentations du repli et des divisions, je vous propose de bâtir ensemble cette Renaissance autour de trois ambitions : la liberté, la protection et le progrès.

Le modèle européen repose sur la liberté de l'homme, la diversité des opinions, de la création. Notre liberté première est la liberté démocratique, celle de choisir nos gouvernants là où, à chaque scrutin, des puissances étrangères cherchent à peser sur nos votes. Je propose que soit créée une Agence européenne de protection des démocraties qui fournira des experts européens à chaque Etat membre pour protéger son processus électoral contre les cyberattaques et les manipulations. Dans cet esprit d'indépendance, nous devons aussi interdire le financement des partis politiques européens par des puissances étrangères. Nous devrions bannir d'Internet, par des règles européennes, tous les discours de haine et de violence, car le respect de l'individu est le fondement de notre civilisation de dignité.

Protéger notre continent

Fondée sur la réconciliation interne, l'Union européenne a oublié de regarder les réalités du monde. Or aucune communauté ne crée de sentiment d'appartenance si elle n'a pas des limites qu'elle protège. La frontière, c'est la liberté en sécurité. Nous devons ainsi remettre à plat l'espace Schengen : tous ceux qui veulent y participer doivent remplir des obligations de responsabilité (contrôle rigoureux des frontières) et de solidarité (une même politique d'asile, avec les mêmes règles d'accueil et de refus). Une police des frontières commune et un office européen de l'asile, des obligations strictes de contrôle, une solidarité européenne à laquelle chaque pays contribue, sous l'autorité d'un Conseil européen de sécurité intérieure : je crois, face aux migrations, à une Europe qui protège à la fois ses valeurs et ses frontières.

Les mêmes exigences doivent s'appliquer à la défense. D'importants progrès ont été réalisés depuis deux ans, mais nous devons donner un cap clair : un traité de défense et de sécurité devra définir nos obligations indispensables, en lien avec l'OTAN et nos alliés européens : augmentation des dépenses militaires, clause de défense mutuelle rendue opérationnelle, Conseil de sécurité européen associant le Royaume-Uni pour préparer nos décisions collectives.

Nos frontières doivent aussi assurer une juste concurrence. Quelle puissance au monde accepte de poursuivre ses échanges avec ceux qui ne respectent aucune de ses règles ? Nous ne pouvons pas subir sans rien dire. Nous devons réformer notre politique de concurrence, refonder notre politique commerciale : sanctionner ou interdire en Europe les entreprises qui portent atteinte à nos intérêts stratégiques et nos valeurs essentielles, comme les normes environnementales, la protection des données et le juste paiement de l'impôt ; et assumer, dans les industries stratégiques et nos marchés publics, une préférence européenne comme le font nos concurrents américains ou chinois.

PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
July 18, 2018

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

Democratic Governance and National Development in Post-war Liberia: A Lesson for Nigeria

By: Josephus Moses Gray
Assistant Professor of International Relations

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Since then, Liberia has been judged by international system and actors of the world to be practicing democracy in Africa in line with international best practice. The promise of democratic governance in a contemporary Liberia is more positive than before; even though there are still several obstacles that require practical actions to be overcome in order to enhance progress in the current Liberia's democratic space.

What are some of these challenges?

The Liberian democracy, just like other democracies across the globe, has its own trials and interferences which include having free and fair elections in which all participants and stakeholders have confidence; leveling the playing field for political parties and other activities; toleration of opinions of both in the opposition and critical voices and public. Other areas are respectability for constitutionalism and rule of law, justice; that all elected officials be accountable to the constituency and counties; people in offices of public trust should discipline their words; extermination of all forms of corruption, leaders lead by examples and encouragement and respect for democratic values and competitions by all political actors.

Our democratic governance system should show cherish respect for a democratic system based on the rule by the poor and disadvantaged, a system of decision-making based on the principle of majority rule; a society based on equal opportunity and individual merit; a structure of rule that protects the rights of minorities and majority and a government that serves the interests of the people.

Under our democratic governance system, democracy in Liberia is practiced limited and indirect democracy with respect to constitutional values in which the citizens elect officials to make political decisions, formulate laws, and administer programs for the public goods. Democracy is limited in the sense that popular participation in government is temporary and occasional, while it is indirect in that the public do not exercise power themselves, instead they merely select those who will govern on their behalf.

Kindly bear with me to briefly discuss the principles of modern democratic rule, which in a contemporary Liberia's period are sometime called: The pillars, doctrines, or values of democratic rule. Democracy globe be measured on the basis of the principles include: citizen participation which means that citizens are part and parcel of what happens in their country, citizens are part of the decision-making process and policies formulation Start from the bottom to the top.

The principles include political equality-meaning political equality of all citizens is an essential principle of democracy, equality before the law, equality of opportunity based on individual's capacities and people should not be denied equal opportunity because of gender, association, religion or race. While political tolerance should always be encouraged although the practices of politics believed to be the easy path to obtaining economic wealth and leadership power (Friedrich, 1968). However, the Liberian society, compared to other African societies, is doing well in the area of political tolerance.

For Instance: the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of Liberia as concerns the 2017 run off presidential election shows how tolerance Liberians are; free speech and press freedom are exceptionally tolerated; if anyone in the audience wants to verify this declaration...the best option is to turn to any of the local radio "Talks Show" or go through the daily headlines and pages of newspapers in the country. I recall that the 54th National Legislature recently decriminalized speech of offensive nature and created a free media environment in Liberia (E mansion, 2019).

The Bill is credited to the Office of the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Manneh Weah. Article 15 of the Liberian constitution guarantees for freedom of speech and expression and also provides cautions regarding abuses. The provision includes freedom of speech and of the press; academic freedom to receive and impart knowledge and information and the right of libraries to make such knowledge available.

Former President Johnson-Sirleaf is also credited as the Second African head of State to endorse the Table Mountain Declaration, which calls on African governments to abolish criminal defamation laws. In 2010 Liberia became the first



to enact West Africa's first Freedom of Information law and established an Independent media Commission headed currently by a student of the Kofi Annan institute of the University of Liberia. This law gives both journalists and the general public the leverage of unrestricted to access to public document, with exclusions of those border on national security.

The third principles of democracy is transparency while Leys (1967) disclosed that to be transparent means that officials both public and private allow for public scrutiny of what they do while in public office including that citizens are allowed to attend public meetings and are free to obtain vital information, holding of regular elections to ensure that bad leadership are not forced on the people and that elections are the main avenue for all citizens to exercise power to elect, or choose and reject their leaders through a secret ballot.

The situation of economic independence is also essential under the Liberian democratic governance system in that it creates the basis on which the citizens become economically potent, hold their leaders' feet to the fire and at the same time meet the needs of their family. Candidates usually attempt to bribe registered voters either directly or indirectly, returns, in most cases these candidates are punished by the voters despite of electoral gifts.

Regarding the principle of the rule of law, constitution of Liberia provides: That no one is above the law and requires that all citizens observe the law and are held accountable if they break it, due process of law requires that the law should be equally; fairly and consistently enforced; equality before the law; The law should rule and establish framework for all conduct and behavior to follow and rule of law ensures law and order and the protection of citizens as they enjoy their rights.

The issue of human right is also indispensable to democratic governance in Liberia since democracies around the world strive to protect the rights and freedoms of their citizens from abuse, to choose their leaders, right to life, the right to own property, the freedom of expression

Democracies across the world work towards multi-party system which is a set-up where there are more than two political parties contesting for power such as broaden the pool for choice of the best candidate for political office, offer alternative views to the government of the day as a result of the existence of an opposition and allow the opposition to act as a check on those in political office.

Electoral System

The Liberian electoral system allows voters to cast secret ballots, free of intimidation, violence and inducement; it further gives electorates the options to make their choices on the basis of alternative developmental programs (NEC, 2014). It provides for changes in government without violence while power can be transferred from one party to another by means of majority decisions; the process-service as a conduit to move forward through the will of the majority and serve as the yardsticks how democratic governance Liberia is viewed internationally. While the element of the practices of democratic values in the country includes: Government chosen by a small and democracy elections must be inclusive, elections must be conclusive and competitive while opposition parties and candidates enjoy the freedom of speech, assembly and movement.

Free Media

The mass media generally constitutes an influence and

effective ingredient of the world. It is due to the role of the media it is called the "Fourth Estate" since a vigorous media is an important element in a strong and healthy democracy. In Liberia, the history of journalism dated far back from the era of pioneers in 1822 when the first batch of colonial masters arrived in Liberia. The first independent newspaper to appear on the newsstand in the country was the "The Liberian Herald on February 16, 1826. Currently, there are over 60 FM radio stations operating in the country with about 46 in Monrovia and its surroundings and also there are over 60 prints in the country but majority of the newspapers are occasional due to financial constraints.

The media role in democratic governance in Liberia includes playing a critical role in improving governance; fights against bad governance and undemocratic practices include abuse of state wealth, human rights and constitutional violations; help in reducing corruption, increasing economic efficiency and stability; serves as a "mirror" of the Liberian society and shapes public opinions, among other roles played.

But the media also encountering difficulties which include lack of needed financial resources and advertisements; Inadequate support and persistent delay to settle payment for advertisements; unethical and unprofessional situations; lacks of professionalism, and proper training by some journalists; sour media-government relations; failures to engage into investigative journalism and lacks the capacity to report in-depth. While lack of encouraging monthly incentive plays a major part as some journalists depend on the corrupt political bureaucrats and foreign capitalist or "token" to meet their daily needs.

Role of Liberian Women in Democratic Governance

The history of democracy in Liberia without the role of Liberian women will be incomplete. In the practices of democratic governance, women play a significant role. Any society that downplays the ability of women and continues to subscribe to outdated beliefs which denied women advancement will always be at conflict with itself. The non-violent activities of Liberian women draw international attention to the once atrocities that were being committed in the country.

It is very difficult to discuss democratic governance in Liberia will out mentioning the meaningful contributions of Liberian women towards the obtainment of democracy and listing peace. Their activities witnessed successive signing of the Accra Peace Accord and democratically elections in 2005 which was won by fearless Liberian women—Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and this struggle of Liberia women started long time since the famous role of Mother Suakoko of Bong County and other indigenous Liberian women whose history deliberately failed to remember for selfish reasons.

Overview of Liberian Electoral Situation

Since Liberia's independence in 1847, the nation has had numerous elections but most of the elections were far from being democratized. Until the 1986 elections which result was compromised in the interest of ex-president Samuel K. Doe. However, following the end of the 14-year war and the signing of the comprehensive Accra peace Accord in 2003: The country with the helped of Liberian development partners and foreign nations has had Three Successful Presidential Elections and a number of Special and By-elections. Kindly permit me to briefly discuss circumstances surrounding these elections.

The Elections of 1870

For instance, the 1870 election ended with the undemocratic removal of former President Edward J. Roye through mob action and Roye's tragic death. He was the first president of then governing True Whig Party (TWP) to be forced from office.

The Elections of 1871

After the forceful removal of Roye from Office, elections were planned in 1871 with former President Joseph Jenkins Roberts who and Roye have often been at loggerheads was the opposition candidate; Robert was named the victor of the election.

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More officials jailed

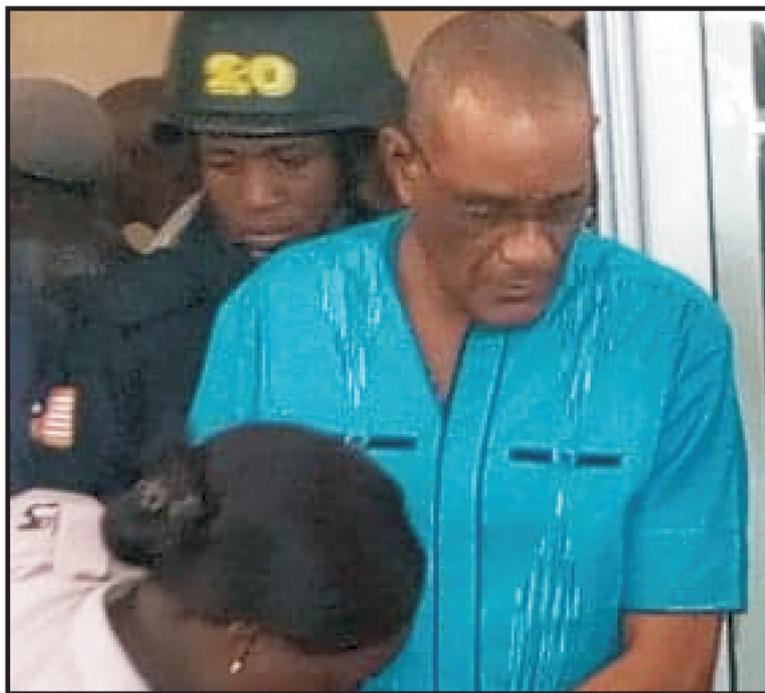
By Winston W. Parley

More arrests have been made in connection to the “missing 16” billion Liberian bank notes as prosecutors and investigators widen the scopes of individuals of interest.

On Tuesday, two more officials of the Central Bank Liberia were charged and sentenced to jail barley 24 hours after three top officials, including former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf, were incarcerated for economic sabotage.

On Tuesday, 5 March, Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Director for Operations defendant Richard H. Walker and the Deputy Director for Internal Audit, Joseph Dennis were incarcerated at the Monrovia Central Prison on charges of economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation, bringing to five, the number of officials held so far following the alleged 16 billion findings.

Earlier on Monday, the CBL's Deputy Governor Mr. Sirleaf, former Executive Governor Mr. Milton Weeks and Director of Banking Mr. Dorbor Hagba were



charged and locked up for their alleged roles in the “missing 16 billion” Liberian banknotes case.

The arrests of the current and former CBL officials, including Internal Audit official Mr. Dennis follow the release of separate reports into findings of the alleged “missing 16 billion” Liberian banknotes by the United States Embassy near Monrovia

and the government here.

The Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) set up by President George Manneh Weah finds that the CBL reported receiving a total of LRD\$15,506,000,000 from its contracted firm Crane Currency AB, but analysis of the packing list submitted by the CBL to PIT actually reveals that 18,151,000,000 was printed and shipped by the

firm.

The indicted officials are therefore expected to give account of the excess amount of 2,645, 000,000 which the PIT says are yet to be fully accounted for.

In the indictment, the prosecutors here clarify that it is from the PIT's findings that these officials have been indicted, and not the findings from Kroll's investigation, a firm hired by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help Liberia in the probe.

According to an indictment prepared against the officials, between April 2016 and August 2018, the inditees knowingly colluded and conspired to defraud the CBL and the Government of Liberia.

The indictment indicates that the inditees had no authority to print an excess amount of LRD\$2,645,000,000 to infuse it into the Liberian market.

The indictment reveals further that the defendants had no authority to pay the amount of US\$835,367.72 to the CBL's hired firm, co-defendant Crane Currency AB for the printing of the excess amount.

In their report, the US sanctioned investigators Kroll Associates Inc., established that the CBL entered into a contract with Crane AB on May 6, 2016 to print new banknotes totaling LRD 5.0 billion, eleven days prior to the CBL receiving full Legislature approval to print new banknotes.

The Legislature's approval was not granted in the same manner as 2016 for the CBL to print a second tranche of new banknotes, totaling LRD 10.0 billion in 2017, the report

continues.

It adds that Crane AB was awarded the second contract in June 2017 by the CBL to print new banknotes totaling LRD 10.0 billion, four weeks before two officials from the Legislature - House Chief Clerk Mildred Sayon and Senate Secretary Nanborlor Singbeh requested that the CBL replace all legacy banknotes.

The CBL did not provide the Legislature with details of the quantity and denominations of the new banknotes prior to the printing and shipping of new banknotes, the USAID report finds.

It says the actual value of new banknotes printed by Crane AB to Liberia totaled LRD 15.506 billion, adding that the new banknotes totaling LRD 0.506 billion were printed by Crane AB above the initial contractual amount of LRD 15.0 billion.

Further, it says under the direction of the Minister of Finance, the President's Economic Management Team also conducted a separate USD 25.0 million exercise to “mop-up” excess LRD banknotes with USD banknotes.

At the time of Kroll's review, this resulted in LRD 2.3 billion (USD 15.0 million)3 being purchased by the CBL from local businesses and foreign exchange bureaus, in an attempt to address the depreciation of the Liberian Dollar, the USAID report says.

It reveals that this action was undertaken by the CBL without a clearly documented strategy.

Kroll's independent counts of the physical cash balances in each of the CBL's three operational vaults could not be reconciled with the CBL's corresponding financial accounting records. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CBL explains US\$25 Million

By Jonathan Browne

In the wake of rising public concerns over account of the infusion of US\$ 25 in the Liberian economy to mop up excess liquidity (Liberian dollars) the Central Bank of Liberia provides clarity on the exercise, detailing that US\$17.0 million used in the process is fully accounted for, while the remaining US\$8.0 million is with the CBL.

A statement issued Tuesday, 5 March by the Central Bank on the CBL Direct Mopping Exercise, details the intervention began on July 17, 2018 and ended October 18, 2018 with a total of US\$17 million used.

According to the CBL statement, US\$15 million was mopped-up from outside the

banking system in exchange for L\$2, 303, 363, 898; and US\$2 million was sold to major petroleum importer in exchange for L\$313, 141, 800.00 million through regular banking transaction to facilitate imports, which ensured a steady supply of fuel to the Liberian market and prevented economic disruption that a fuel shortage would have caused.

The CBL says the Technical Economic Management Team or TEMT, which is an economic policy-making body chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah with the Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Nathaniel R. Patray serving as Co-chair, mandated that the mopped-up money be

sterilized for one year.

“However, due to complaints from commercial banks and customers during the Christmas seasons that they could withdraw Liberian dollars from the banks, the TEMT authorized the CBL to give L\$1.3 billion of the sterilized L\$2,303, 363, 898 billion to the commercial banks to meet the Liberian dollar demands for the Christmas season. The CBL gave this money to the commercial banks, and records for these transactions are available”, the statement reads.

The Central Bank maintains that all monies mentioned in the transactions involving the US\$25 million are accounted for, and the Bank avails itself of any further scrutiny, either from the Government, external actors, or both.

On July 16, 2018, President George Manneh Weah during a nationwide address on that state of the economy, instructed the Central Bank of Liberia to infuse US\$25 million into the economy to mop-up excess Liberian dollar liquidity to stabilize the exchange rate between the Liberian dollar and the United States dollar.

The statement says said measure was implemented by the CBL in close collaboration with the TEMT to whom it submitted regular progress reports. **See Page 5 for the full statement by the CBL.**



Senate debates

Starts from back page

who are seeking dual citizenship here.

Sen. Brown says Liberia shouldn't encourage dual citizenship because it will cause divided loyalty.

He argues that being a citizen of two countries undermines the loyalty of the individual, saying everyone should hold loyal only to a particular country.

According to him, accepting dual citizenship here will undermine Liberia's sovereignty, warning further that it has a lot of disadvantages because more money will be leaving the country than coming in.

But Gbarpolu County Sen. Armah Jallah believes accepting dual citizenship will be more beneficial to Liberia as a whole.

Sen. Jallah argues if a foreign national is granted a

Liberian citizenship, he or she will feel free to invest in Liberia, knowing that he is a citizen.

For his part, Bong County Sen. Henry Yallah believes that dual citizenship will bring development to the country, noting that Liberians will benefit a lot from it.

President George Manneh Weah re-awakened the dual citizenship debate here a year ago while delivering his first annual message before the joint chambers of the Legislature in January 2018, when he described the Constitution racist.

Like his predecessor, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President Weah is supportive dual citizenship, including people of non-negro descent, arguing that it could lead to rapid development. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Senate debates Dual Citizenship



By Ethel A. Tweh

The Chambers of the Liberian Senate turned a battle ground Tuesday, 5 March when senators got into heated argument over the granting of dual citizenship here. The composition of the current Liberian constitution prohibits dual citizenship and deny

citizenship to people of non-negro descent.

During the debate, Sen. H. Dan Morais of Maryland County claims that denying people of having dual citizenship in Liberia is a level of immorality.

He says in order for dual citizenship to be accepted, lawmakers need to amend Article 28 of the Liberian

Constitution.

The provision says "Any person, at least one of whose parents was a citizen of Liberia at the time of the Person's birth, shall be a citizen of Liberia, provided that any such person shall upon reaching maturity renounce any other citizenship acquired by virtue of one parent being a citizen of another country."

It adds that no citizen of the Republic shall be deprived of citizenship or nationality except as provided by law; and no person shall be denied the right to change citizenship or nationality.

Sen. Morais argues that the world is small and Liberians will go out and have children by other nationals, warning that those children need to be given the right to their mother's or father's land.

Sen. Morais' kisman, Sen. Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland County however differs with his colleagues



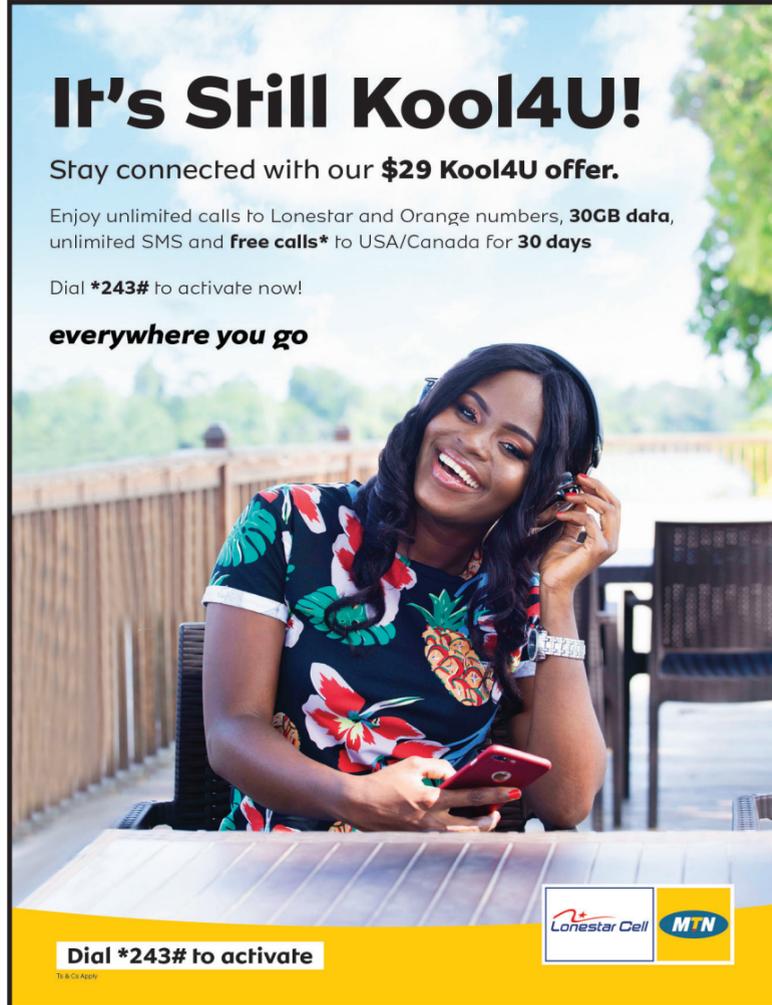
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FIFA recommends use of VAR at 2019 Women's World Cup

FIFA has recommended the use of video assistant referee (VAR) technology for the 2019 Women's World Cup in France this year.

The organizing committee of world soccer's governing body met on Monday and backed the use of VAR at the tournament after it was

introduced at the men's World Cup last year in Russia.

The FIFA council will make a final decision on whether the technology will be used at this year's women's event, which runs from June 7-July 7, when it meets in Miami later this month.

"I can't see them not having (VAR), I think it would be a little bit insulting if we weren't

afforded the same opportunity (as the men)," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said in July.

The technology, which is operating in most of the leading European soccer leagues, has been used in the Champions League knockout stage for the first time this season.

The English Premier League plans to use VAR next season.



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